

Increased consolidation of media providers will seriously endanger our democracy, which depends on the ability to make its varied voices heard.

Ownership rules were loosened for radio station ownership, and now Clear Channel has grown controlling 40 stations to controlling over 1200 stations. Some areas of the country are in a single-source market as a result. If newspapers or television follow the pattern, one corporation will be able to dictate the news and entertainment content for vast numbers of the population.

It is my understanding that the FCC is split, as is too common these days, along partisan lines: the Republican members want to loosen the restrictions, and the Democratic members want to keep the regulations as they are today. This partisanship is unacceptable; decisions such as this should be made based upon the public good.

As representatives of the people of the United States, the FCC's primary duty - in the broadest sense - is to improve the quality of life in the United States. Handing ever-increasing control to ever-decreasing numbers of corporations does not serve the public well.

I want the existing rules retained, and do not support loosening ownership restrictions.

Thank you.